

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto is one (1) replacement drawing sheet that complies with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The replacement drawing sheet incorporates the following drawing changes:

In Fig. 2, reference numeral --12-- and a line extending from the reference numeral to an igniter main body has been added.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. New claims 12-16 have been added.

Amendments to the Specification and Claims

Minor changes have been made to the specification and claims to place them in better form for U.S. practice.

The above-noted specification changes are set forth in the attached Substitute Specification. The Substitute Specification does not contain new matter.

A Comparison Specification showing the matter being added to and deleted from the original specification is also submitted herewith.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve the Substitute Specification.

Drawing Changes

In Fig. 2, reference numeral --12-- and a line extending from the reference numeral to an igniter main body has been added.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to approve and enter this drawing change.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 7-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Koga (US 2002/0135172). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Koga discloses a gas generator having an initiator 24 (corresponds to the “igniter assembly” of the claimed invention of the present application), an initiator holder 24b (corresponds to the “igniter collar”) that accommodates the initiator 24, an enhancer cup 26

(corresponds to the “cup body”) that surrounds at least a part of the initiator 24, and a booster tube 18 (corresponds to the “tubular crimp case”).

As shown in Figs. 1 and 2, the booster tube 18 has a protrusion (i.e., rims 16b or 18b) extending from the bottom end of the tube 18 towards the initiator holder 24b. The upper end of the tube 18 extends upward and makes contact with an upper housing 12. The enhancer cup 26 is attached to the initiator holder 24b by crimping a lower end of the enhancer cup 26 against the initiator holder 24b.

Therefore, in Koga, the booster tube 18 (corresponds to the “tubular crimp case”) does not connect and fasten “the cup body to the igniter collar by bending the upper end of the tubular crimp case towards the igniter collar, such that a first bent portion formed at the upper end of the tubular crimp case presses a part of the cup body against a part of an exterior surface of the igniter collar.” Accordingly, Koga fails to disclose or suggest the “tubular crimp case” as recited in claim 1.

Claims 2-3 and 7-8, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Koga in view of Yabuta et al. (USP 6,718,884). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5 and 6, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claim 4 has been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent claim form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 4, however, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 9-11 are allowable over the prior art of record.

A favorable determination by the Examiner and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

New Claims

Claim 12 is allowable at least because none of the references of record discloses or suggests the steps of "crimping the upper end of the tubular crimp case inwardly and pressing the flange portion of the cup body against the igniter collar," and "pressing the igniter collar against the bent portion of the tubular crimp case by pressing the flange portion against the igniter collar."

Claim 13, dependent on claim 12, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 12.

Claims 14-16, dependent on claim 9 or 12, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 9 or 12.

A favorable determination by the Examiner and allowance of these new claims is earnestly solicited.

Reply dated April 14, 2006

Reply to Office Action of December 15, 2005

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Conclusion

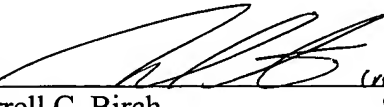
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (#40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: April 14, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

for By  (reg. # 40,417)
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Attachments: One (1) Replacement Drawing Sheet - Fig. 2
Substitute Specification - 12 pages
Comparison Specification - 13 pages